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REQUEST FOR COMMENTS PURSUANT TO CFR 800.11
Effect on the Potato Slough Mound Archaeological Site
by Construction of the Potato Slough Bridge,
on Route 12, San Joaquin County.

10-SJ-12 4.2/5.5
10-230204

Agency Official Making Request

Bruce E. Cannon
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
P. O. Box 1915
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Prepared By

California Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Analysis

March 1989

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C-076327

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I. INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration, is currently constructing a new bridge across Potato Slough near Terminous on Route 12 in San Joaquin County (Exhibit 1, Map 1). During construction, human remains of Native American origin were encountered where no archaeological site was previously known to exist (Exhibit 1, Map 2). No further construction work will impact the site area. However, construction in the general vicinity of the site is currently halted pending SHPO agreement on treatment of the site.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The new bridge across Potato Slough requires the construction of new alignment as an approach to this bridge on the east side of the slough. This alignment will be further north than existing Route 12 and will require a portion of the drainage canal that now runs parallel to the north side of the highway to be moved northward as well (Exhibit 1, Map 3).

The western end of this new drainage canal segment cuts back towards the southwest to meet the existing canal. Construction of the canal in this area cut off a corner of the existing mound. It was in this cutbank that human remains were found in situ.

Map research shows that existing maps do not provide a clear picture of the original configuration or extent of the mound due to the generally low topography of the area. It was found during site recordation (Exhibit 2) that the mound had been roughly squared off by earth moving equipment. Aerial photographs confirmed that the mound had been squared prior to August 1974. Aside from the mound itself, there are no surface manifestations of the archaeological site. The mound has been capped by a layer of peat up to three feet in depth (Exhibit 3, Figure 1).

III. ACTION TAKEN TO DATE

On Monday morning, March 6th, 1989, workmen returned to that portion of the newly dug canal that had cut into the mound on the preceding Friday. A human skull apparently eroded out of the cutbank during rainy weather over the weekend. Construction work was therefore not initiated, and Caltrans District 10 Environmental Branch was contacted. Caltrans District 10 Environmental Branch staff notified the County Coroner, the Native American Heritage Commission and appropriate Native American Advisors, and the Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA).

The Coroner visited the site on March 6th. Raymond Tripp, designated as a representative of the most likely descendants of

the area by the Native American Heritage Commission under the provisions of the California Public Resources Code 5097.98 - 5097.99, visited the site on March 7th in the capacity of Native American advisor. Cindy Adams and Michael Rondeau of OEA also visited the site to assess the significance and appropriate terminate of the archaeological remains. At that time it was determined that the remains of several burials had been scattered by construction. The possibility of a third, at least partly in situ burial, was noted in the cutbank. The equipment needed to clarify this determination was not available at that time and plans were formulated in consultation with the Native American advisor to make a determination on the following day. The portion of the cutbank retaining human remains was covered with a plastic tarp to prevent further erosion and to help discourage vandalism (Exhibit 3, Figure 2).

On March 8th a team of archaeologists from the Caltrans Office of Environmental Analysis further investigated the find in consultation of the Native American advisor. It was determined through excavation that there were in situ human remains in the cutbank and that deposits in the vicinity of that burial contained faunal remains, flaked stone and ochre.

Over ninety percent of the exposed cutbank was then covered with plastic tarps and weighted down to protect the sandy deposits from further erosion by inclement weather. On March 14th the mound vicinity was recorded (Exhibit 2) as the probable site area. The peat cap precluded conclusive identification of the site area by surface inspection. The site record has been forwarded to the appropriate information center of the California Archaeological Site Inventory.

IV. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

The cutting of the drainage canal into the mound was completed prior to discovery of the human remains. No further construction impacts will occur to the site at this time. Possible future impacts to the site which may be anticipated are erosion of the cutbank, which is on the outside of the drainage canal curve, and potential vandalism of site burials due to future exposure in the canal cutbank.

In consultation with Native American representatives Raymond Tripp and Bill Franklin, an acceptable protection plan has been developed (Exhibit 4). The plan involves the placement of rip-rap over the face of the cutbank. The excavation for the footing of this rip-rap will be made available to reinter the human remains disturbed by canal construction as close to their original places of origin as possible.

This plan may not require the slope to be dressed prior to the placement of rip-rap. If dressing should prove necessary, it

would be of limited extent. Any slope dressing will be done by hand to minimize further impacts to the site. Both a Native American advisor and an archaeological monitor would be present during the dressing of the slope. The reinterment of the human remains will be accomplished under the direction of the Native American advisor and an archaeological monitor.

The reinterment location under the rip-rap will be selected by the Native American advisor. In this way the reinterment should remain undisturbed in perpetuity. The exact location of the reinterment will be record and reported to the Native American Heritage Commission.

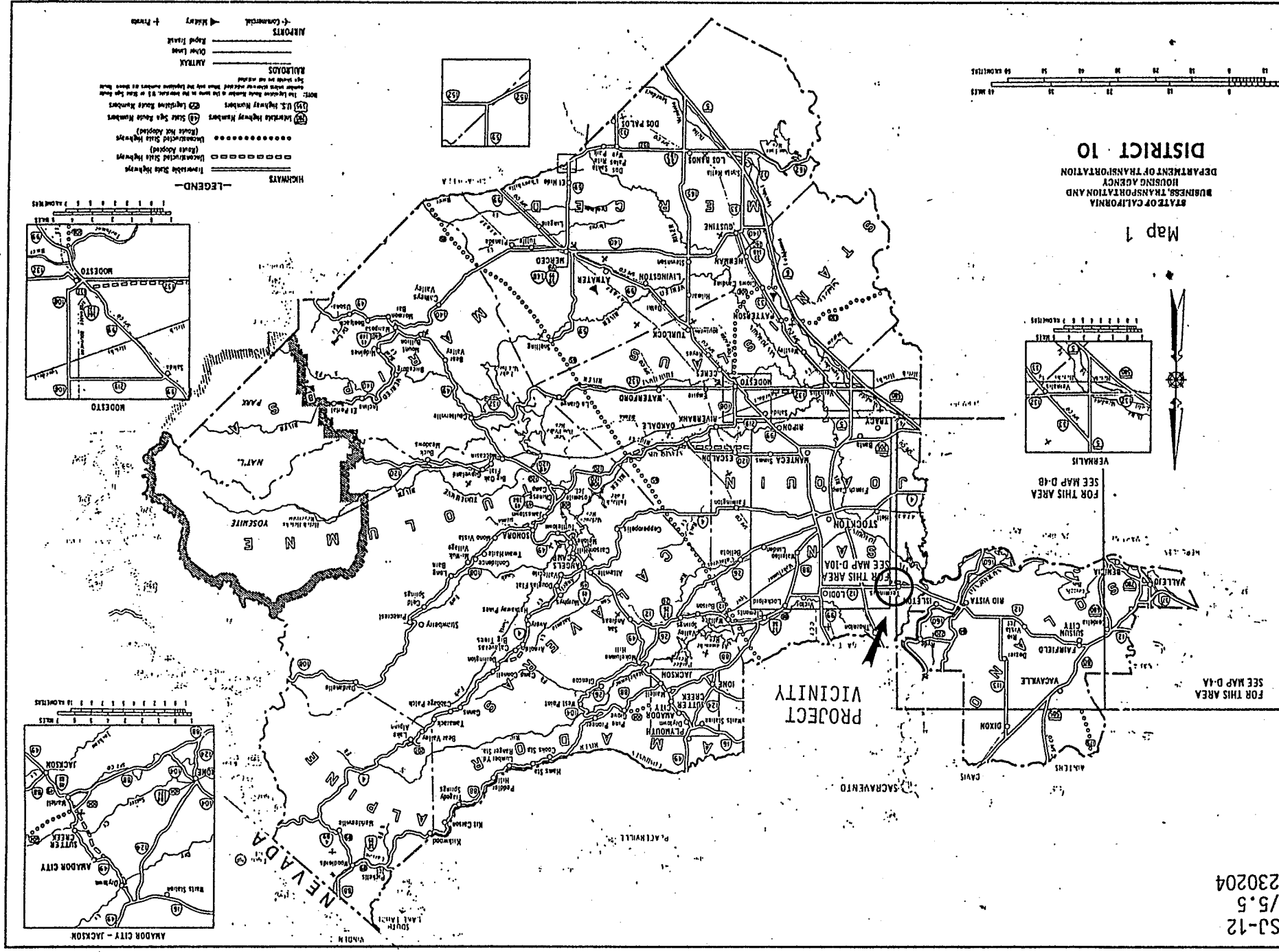
V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The expressed wishes of the Native American community are that further disturbance to the site and especially to the burials not occur. Because of the probability that additional burials would be encountered, it is not feasible to conduct test excavations to determine site significance nor to offset the effect of the project by data recovery. Through the design features outlined above (see Exhibit 4), further impacts to the site can be mitigated. The dressing and rip-rapping of the cutbank has been discussed informally with SHPO staff who indicated that it would be considered an acceptable measure to prevent further impacts to the site.

Because the extent of the site is unknown at this time, archaeological monitoring of any subsequent subsurface work in the general site vicinity will be required.

Exhibit 1 - Project Vicinity and Location Maps

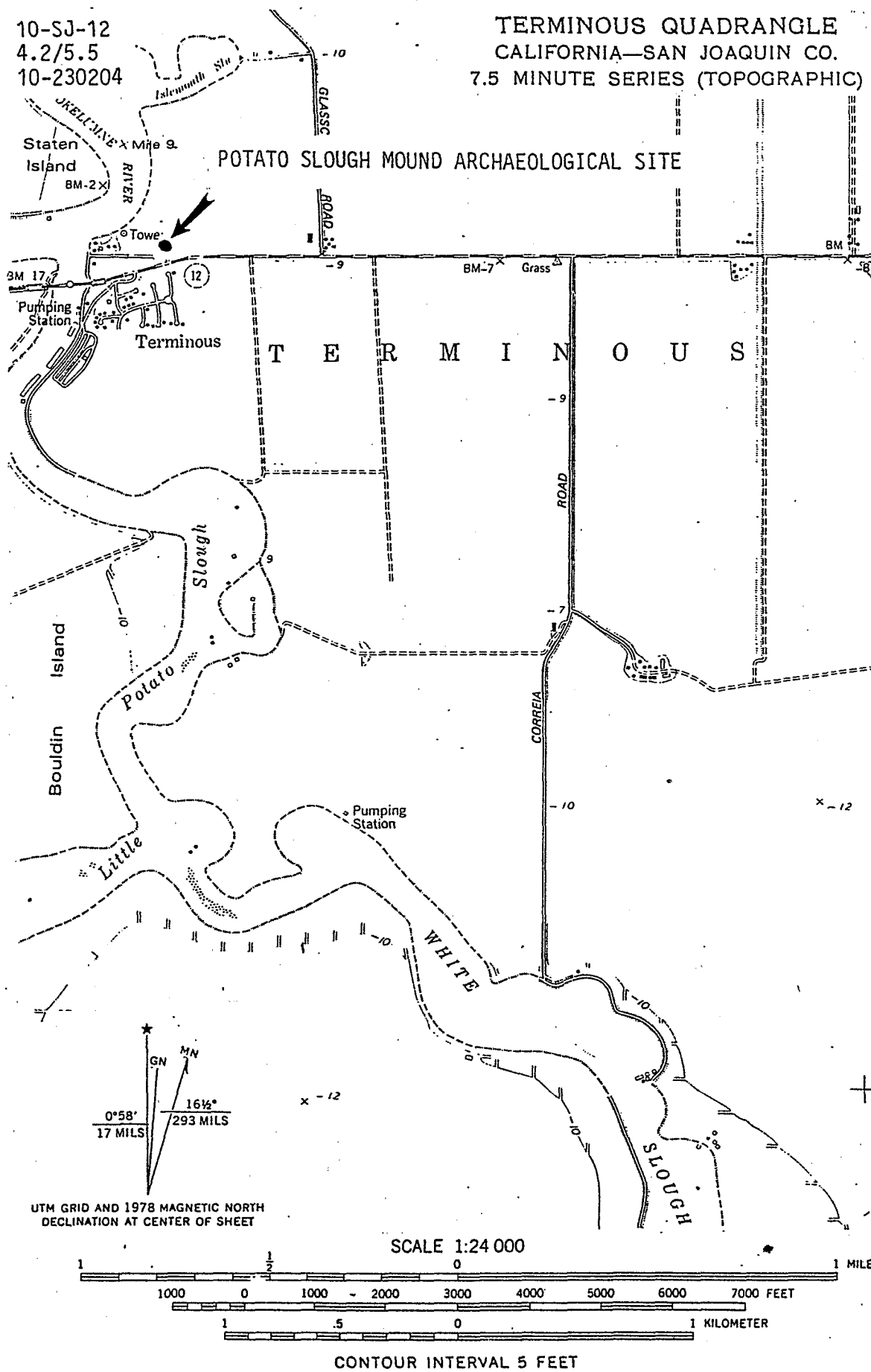
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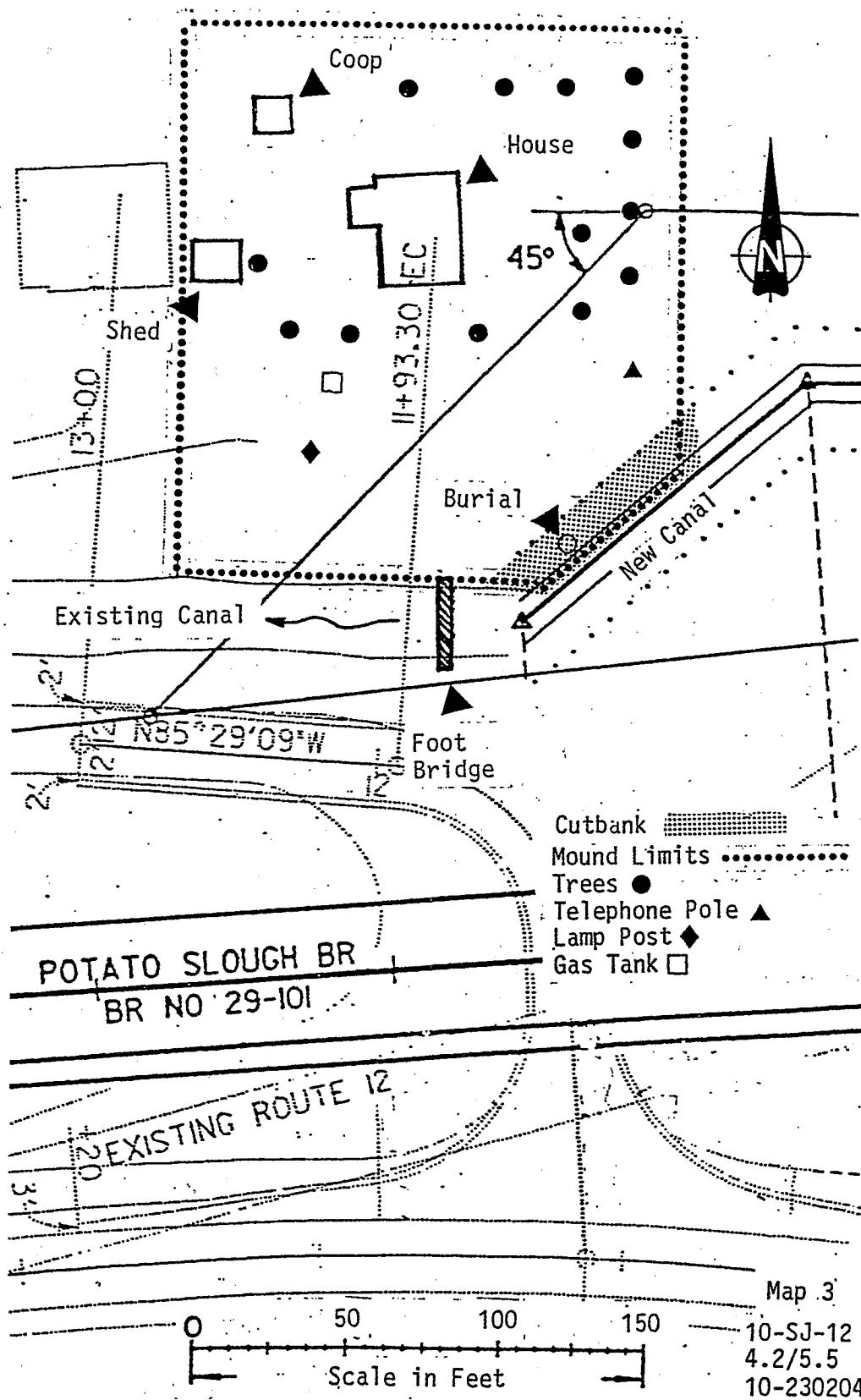
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Exhibit 2 - Archaeological Site Record

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C-076336

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD

Permanent Trinomial: _____ Supplement ☐

Temporary Number: _____

Page 1 of 4

Agency Designation: Potato Slough Mound

1. County: San Joaquin
2. USGS Quad: Terminus (7.5') X (15') Photorevised 1978
3. UTM Coordinates: Zone 11 / 632180 Easting / 4219540 Northing ()
4. Township 3N Range 4E ; _____ % of NA % of NA % of NA % of Section NA Base (Mer.) 4 ()
5. Map Coordinates: 42 mmS 28 mmE (from NW corner of map) 6. Elevation 0'
7. Location: North of Hwy 12 adjacent to drainage canal north of Hwy 12. Across Hwy 12 from eastern portion of Terminus. 0.425 miles west of intersection of Hwy 12 and Glassock Rd. Located at address in #30 below.
()
8. Prehistoric X Historic _____ Protohistoric _____ 9. Site Description: Mound squared by earth moving and capped with 60 to 100 cm of peat soil. No surface indications. Burials and other material exposed in cutbank for new drainage canal.
()
10. Area: 56 m(length)x 46 m(width) 2500 m². Method of Determination: Tape measurement ()
11. Depth: 150+ cm Method of Determination: Observation of cutbank ()
12. Features: Three burials, probably more.
()
13. Artifacts: One flake of green chert, one piece of ochre and one small fragment of abalone shell.
()
14. Non-Artifactual Constituents: Bird bone, some burned.
()
15. Date Recorded: 3/14/89 16. Recorded By: L. Rodgers, M. Rondeau ()
17. Affiliation and Address: Caltrans, 1120 N Street, Sacramento, CA ()

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD

Permanent Trinomial: _____ / _____
mo. yr.

Temporary Number: _____

Page 2 of 4

Agency Designation: Potato Slough Mound

18. Human Remains: Portions of three burials observed, probably more in mound..

19. Site Integrity: Modified by earth moving, peat capping, drainage canals, telephone pole, house, out buildings, and water pipe. A good portion of mound may still remain undisturbed under the peat cap.

20. Nearest Water (type, distance and direction): Originally all around, now adjacent drainage canal.

21. Largest Body of Water within 1 km (type, distance and direction): S. Mokelumne River - 200m NW

22. Vegetation Community (site vicinity): Blackberries, peat farm fields. [Plant List ()]

23. Vegetation Community (on site): Introduced grasses, yard exotics [Plant List ()]

References for above: NA

24. Site Soil: Sand () 25. Surrounding Soil: Peat ()

26. Geology: Delta peat bogs () 27. Landform: Swamps ()

28. Slope: None () 29. Exposure: 360° ()

30. Landowner(s) (and/or tenants) and Address: Mr. Paul Johnson
14701 W. Terminous Dr., Lodi, CA 95242 ()

31. Remarks: The site is located in Terminous Tract. No sections available on USGS.
Human remains to be reburied. ()

32. References: None ()

33. Name of Project: Potato Slough Bridge Replacement, 10-SJ-12, 4.2/5.5, 10-230204. ()

34. Type of Investigation: Site protection and recordation ()

35. Site Accession Number: NA Curated At: NA ()

36. Photos: Color prints Taken By: L. Rodgers, M. Rondeau ()

37. Photo Accession Number: 127 On File At: Caltrans, HQ ()

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
**ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE LOCATION
MAP**

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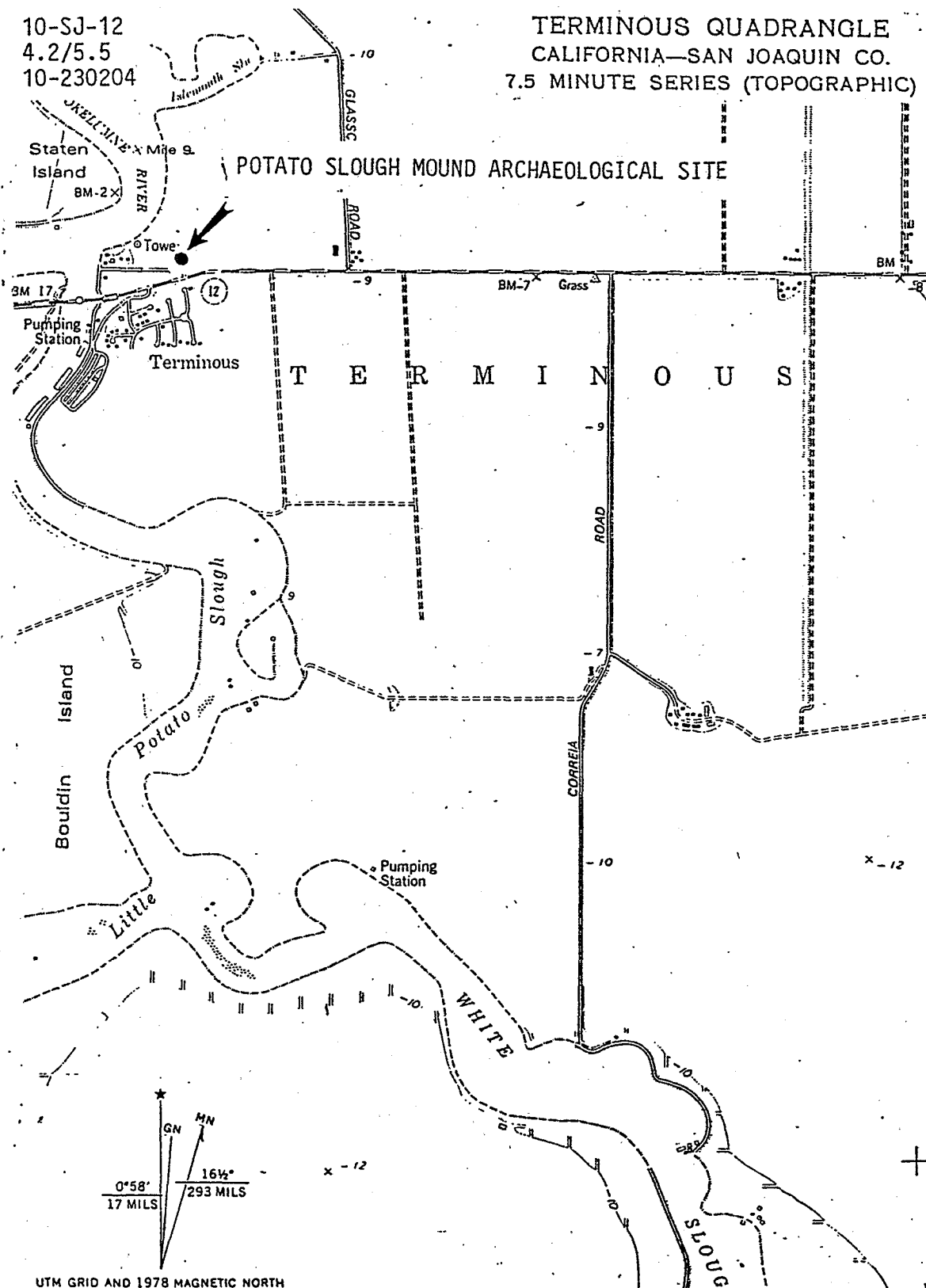
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Temporary Number: _____

Agency Designation: Potato Slough Mound

10-SJ-12
4.2/5.5
10-230204

TERMINOUS QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA—SAN JOAQUIN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



UTM GRID AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE
MAP

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Permanent Trinomial: _____ / _____ mo. _____ yr.

Temporary Number: _____

Agency Designation: Potato Slough Mound

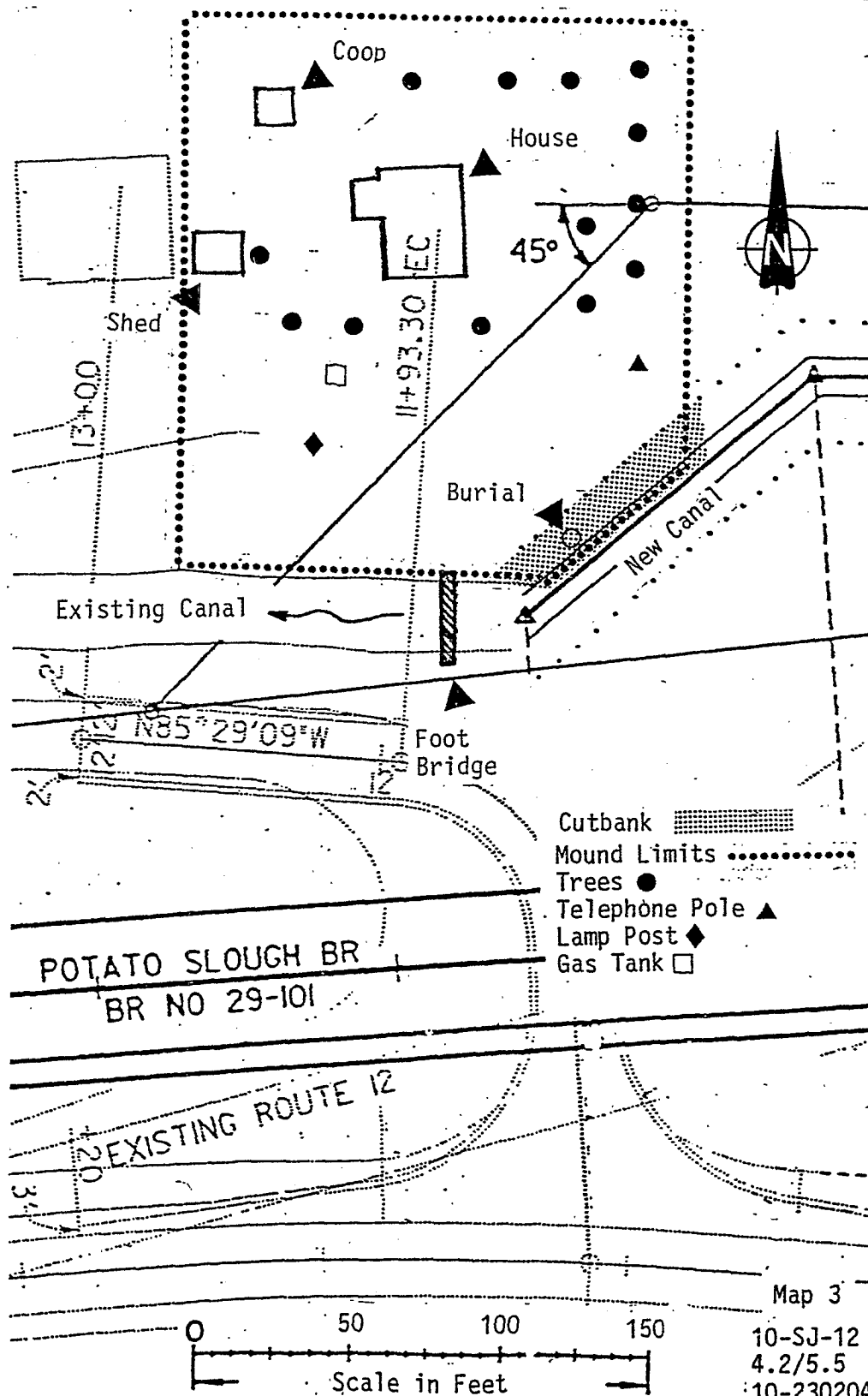


Exhibit 3 - Photographs

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Figure 1: Depth of in situ burial at base of folding rule. View to northwest. Note cap of peat soil.

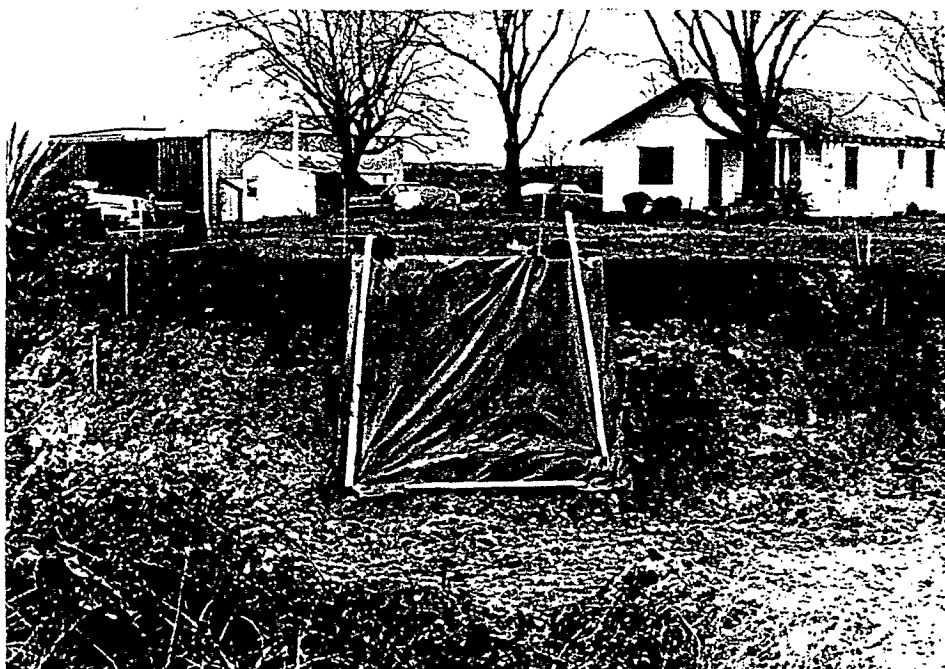


Figure 2: Tarp covering burial portion of cutbank. View to northwest.

Exhibit 4 - Protection Plan Specifications for Cutbank

Memorandum

To: District 10

Date: March 17, 1989

Att'n: Mike Marquez

File: 10-SJ-12-4.2/3.5
10-230204(502)
Potato Slough Bridge
Br. No. 29-101

From: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Gary Gallegos, Resident Engineer

Subject: Proposal for Indian Burial Site

Enclosed please find our proposal for protection of the Indian burial site found during construction of the drainage canal on the above referenced project.

Please forward to the appropriate parties for their concurrence.

Thank you for your cooperation.

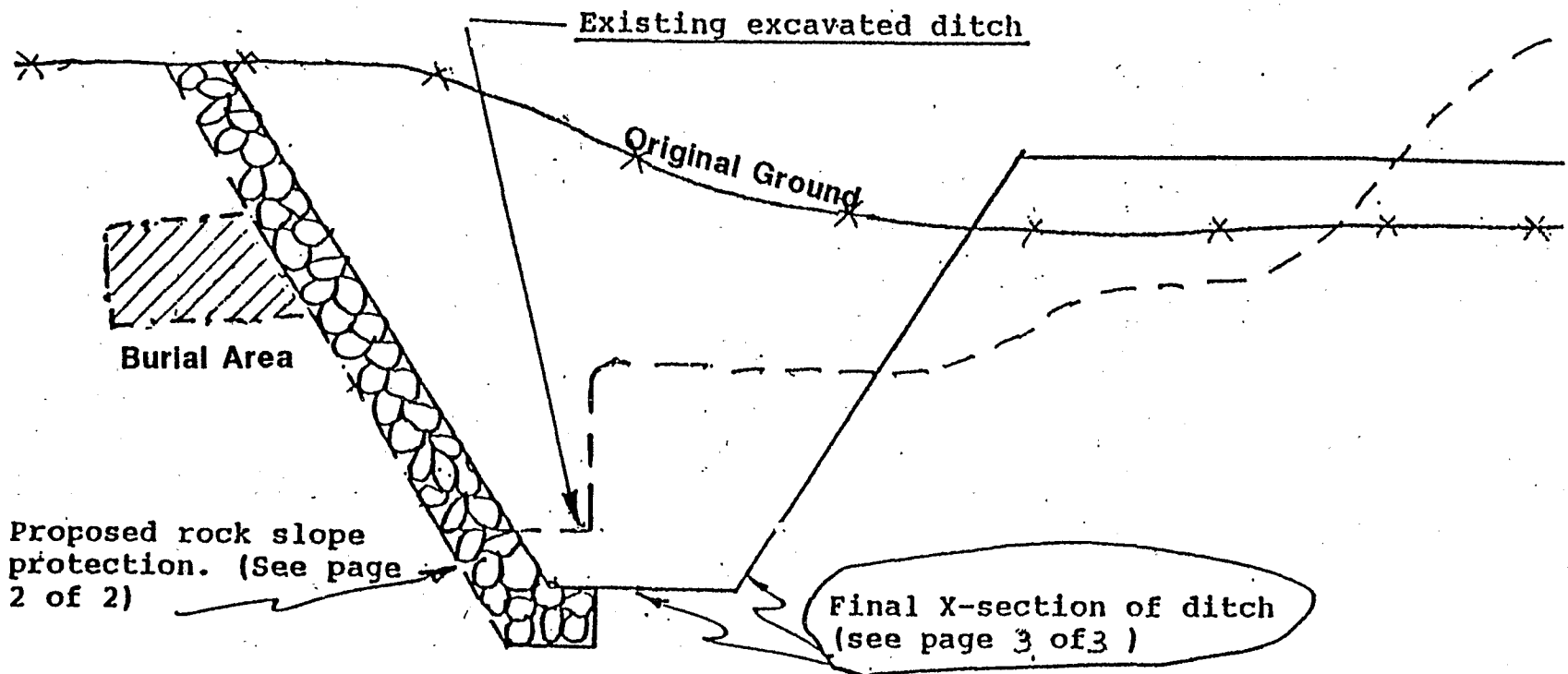
Gary Gallegos

Gary Gallegos
Resident Engineer

cc: RDPrahl
[REDACTED]
Structures HQ
File

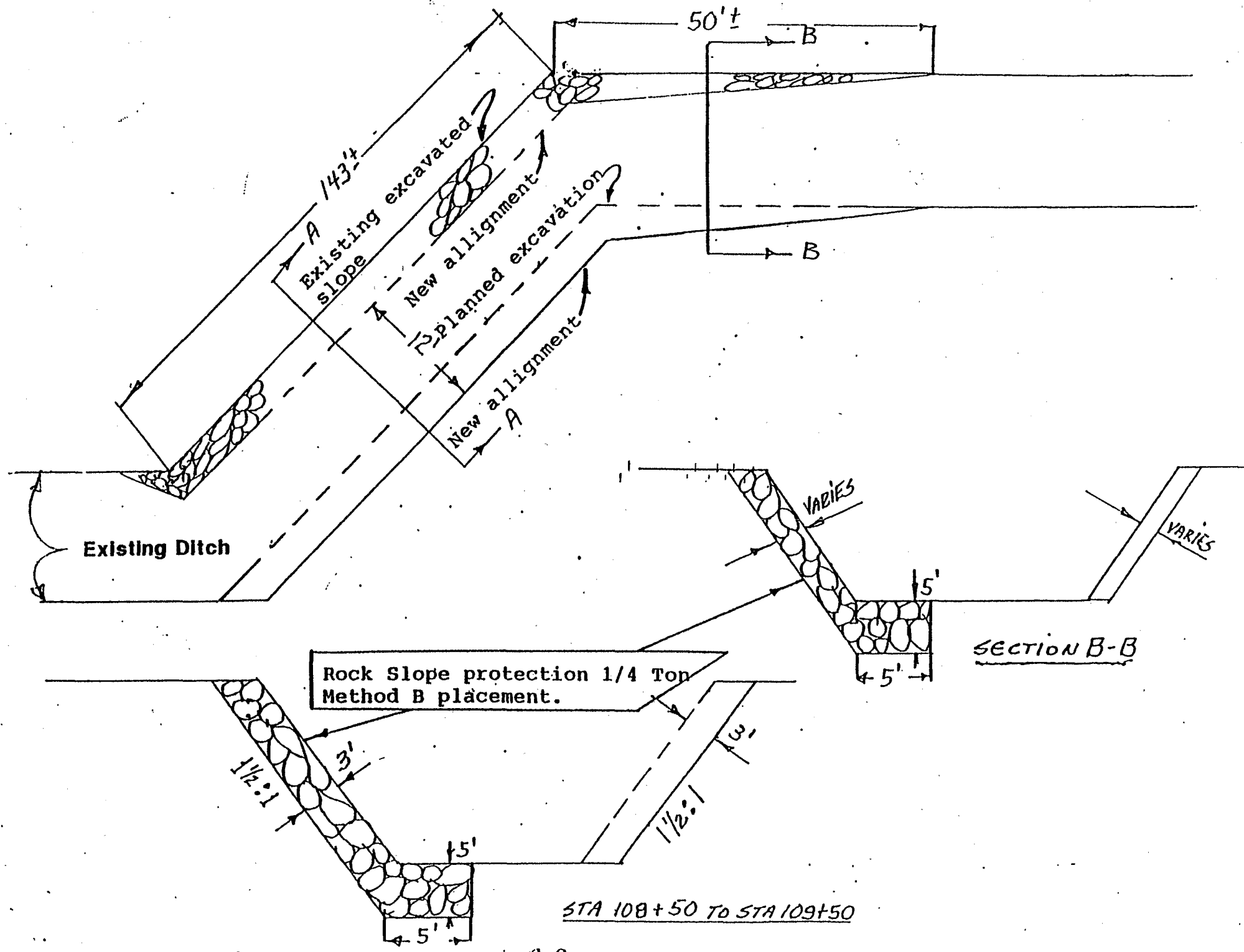
10-SJ-12-4.2/5.5 10-230204(502)
BRF-P012(48) At & nr Terminus, 0.5
mi W to .8-mi E of Potato Slough Br
(replace bridge)

Existing excavation As-Built
preceding work stoppage.



C-076345

C-076345



C-076346

